

The CLAN CALL

by Hapsburg Liebe

Illustrations by Irwin Myers

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SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—Young Carlyle Whitburn Dale, son of a wealthy coal operator, John K. Dale, arrives at the Halfway Switch in eastern Tennessee, abandoning a life of idle ease—and incidentally a bride, Patricia Clavering, at the altar—meets "Babe" Littleford, a typical mountain girl. "By Heck," a character of the hills, takes him to John Moreland's home. Moreland is chief of his clan, which has an old feud with the Littlefords. He tells Dale of the killing of his brother, David Moreland, years ago, owner of rich coal deposits, by a man named Carlyle. Moreland's description of "Carlyle" causes Dale to believe the man was his father.

CHAPTER II.—Dale arranges to make his home with the Moreland family, for whom he entertains a deep respect.

CHAPTER III.—Talking with "Babe" Littleford next day, Dale is ordered by "Black Adam" Ball, bully of the district, to leave "his girl" alone. Dale replies spiritedly, and they fight. Dale whips the bully, though badly used up. He arranges with John Moreland to develop John's coal deposits. Ben Littleford sends a challenge to John Moreland to meet him with his followers next day, in battle. Moreland agrees.

CHAPTER IV.—During the night of the guns belonging to the Littlefords and the Morelands mysteriously disappear.

CHAPTER V.—Dale arranges to go to Cincinnati to secure money for the mining of the coal. The two clans find their weapons, which the women had hidden, and line up for battle. "Babe" in an effort to stop the fighting, crosses to the Moreland side of the river, and is accidentally shot by her father and seriously wounded.

CHAPTER VI.—To get proper surgical aid, John Moreland, Ben Littleford and Dale convey "Babe" unconscious to the city. Doctors assure them she is not seriously hurt. Dale meets an old friend, Bobby McLaughlin, who had married Patricia Clavering. Telling his father of David Moreland's coal, the old gentleman's actions convince the son of his father's guilt in the killing of Moreland.

CHAPTER VII.—It is arranged that "Babe" is to stay with Mrs. McLaughlin to be educated. Dale, refusing his father's proffered financial aid to develop the mine, interests Newton Wheatley, capitalist, who agrees to furnish the money. Dale realizes he loves "Babe."

CHAPTER VIII.—Returning to the Halfway Switch, Dale meets John Moreland, lawyer, and real friend of the mountaineers, whom he engages as counsel for the company. A new friend, Goff, of evil repute, tries to bribe Dale to betray the Morelands by selling him the coal deposits, and telling them they are of little value. Dale attempts to threaten him, but Goff draws a revolver.

CHAPTER IX.—Goff enlists the aid of a turbulent crowd, the Balls and Torreys, to make trouble for Dale's company. The Littlefords and Morelands agree to forget the old feud and dwell in harmony.

At a point near where the little stream that flowed past the Halfway Switch emptied into Doe river, where Doe river turned almost squarely to the left, Dale halted abruptly. He had seen a man dart behind a scrubby oak some thirty yards ahead of him; quite naturally, he concluded that the fellow meant to waylay him, and he too, stepped behind a tree, a big hemlock.

A silent minute went by. Then Dale put his hat out on one side of the tree and peeped from the other side; it was an old trick that Grandpapa Moreland had told him about. A rifle cracked promptly and sharply, and a bullet hole appeared in the rim of his hat!

Following it, there came the coarse, bass voice of Black Adam Ball, the mountaineer Goliath:

"You can't fool me. I jest shot to put a hole in yore new hat and to show ye 'at I ain't no bad shot. You can't hit my hat!"

Dale's temper, the temper that had always been so hard to keep under control, rose quickly. He tried to reason with himself, and couldn't; his passion mastered him. He snatched the big revolver from his holster and cocked it. With as steady a hand as ever held a weapon, he began to take aim at Ball's slouch hat, the hat of which was in plain view at one side of the scrubby oak.

"I fooled you once, back there in the middle of the river," he cried hotly, "and now I'm going to fool you again!"

There was in his voice that old, old primitive rage, which frightened him, and puzzled him too, in his better moments.

He let down the head until it was barely visible in the notch, and eased off the trigger. The revolver roared and spat forth a tiny tongue of flame and a little cloud of white smoke. Ball sprang erect, wheeled, and fell crashing to the leaves!

Dale dropped his weapon. He went as white as death, and his two hands clutched uncertainly at his throat. He was a murderer! No, he wasn't—his bullet had gone wild; it had struck Ball's head on the other side of the tree, by accident. But how could he prove that it had been an accident? Would any jury believe him? It was far from probable.

He stepped from behind the hemlock and went toward the writhing Goliath, whose legs only were visible now.

Then a third shot rang out on the morning stillness. It had been fired from a point some little distance away, and Dale's condition of mind at the moment was such that he didn't even note the direction from which the sound had come. He was unharmed, and he had not heard the whine of a bullet or the pattering of shot on the leaves. When he looked about him, he saw no one; neither did he see any telltale smoke. Perhaps, he thought dimly, it had been a squirrel-hunter

shore fanned party d-d well. It must ha' been yore third shot 'at got Adam."

"I fired only once," disagreed Dale. "Your son fired first; I fired second; and somebody else, I haven't the slightest idea who, fired the other shot."

"Aw, shut up! Ye can tell it at the trial," growled old Ball. Then to his kinsmen.

"We'll hold Dale right here, boys, until the sheriff he's sent after comes. And we'll not move Adam, which same is accordin' to law. I reckon Sheriff Tom Flowers'll find a different job from what he's expected to find; won't he, boys? Say, I wisht one o' yore fellers'd gi' me a good, big chaw o' tobacco. He durned if I don't. Adam's death, it has made me feel sort o' bad, by gones, and tobacco's allus a consolation."

"Bill Dale, you hain't got a chaw o' tobacco on ye, have ye—bought to-bacco, store tobacco? It's a durned sight better'n home-made, I says. Ye say ye don't chew! Chew—h—h—! Why'n't ye say 'chaw,' like a man! I allus knowed ye wasn't no 'count, no-how. Nobody 'at don't chaw tobacco ain't no 'count. . . . All right, Jim like," to his nephew, "I'll take a chaw o' yores, then. And I'll take a to-bacco big chaw, Jim like, 'cause Adam's death has made me feel sort o' bad, and tobacco's allus a consolation."

The sounds of the shooting had carried far, and it wasn't long until the scene of the tragedy was crowded with Balls and Torreys, Littlefords and Morelands. Major Bradley and Hayes, too, were there. Every man in the crowd was armed; a very little thing might easily turn the place into a shambles. The major saw this, and he was afraid. He drew the leaders of the Morelands and the Littlefords aside, and finally prevailed upon them to do their utmost toward keeping peace until the coming of the sheriff.

At first John Moreland and Ben Littleford were for taking Bill Dale from the Balls and Torreys who guarded him, if they had to depopulate the whole Ball settlement, Jerusalem Cove and Hatton's Hell to accomplish it. Happily, the major's counsel prevailed. Sheriff Tom Flowers was a tall and lithe, smooth-faced man. He arrived with Luke Moreland at noon, after hours of hard riding. He saw the high tension, and immediately steered himself to handle the situation. After riding straight to the center of the gathering and there halting his horse, he said evenly:

"In order that I may know who to arrest, I must know something of the circumstances. Only one man must speak at a time. No playing bad with me; and remember that, gentlemen. I'll certainly drop the fellow who starts playing boss with me, if it's the last word I make on earth. Now somebody gently use his powers of speech."

Major Bradley, more soldierlike than ever, went forward. "As the attorney of Mr. Dale, who stands accused of killing Adam Ball," he said to the officer, "I beg leave to state that my client will do no talking at present."

Dale understood, and he did not open his mouth.

But old Ball had something to say, and he proceeded to say it:

"He killed my son, Adam," pointing to Dale, "in cold blood. Me and about a dozen o' my kin was on our way over Long ridge to look at a bee tree, when we heered three pistol shots. We was right up thar," pointing to the northward, "and we come a-runnin' over here to see, by gones, what was the matter. Well, by gones, we found Bill Dale thar down on his knees aside o' my son, Adam, who was as dead as h—l or deader; and Bill Dale was a-sobbin' and a-sobbin' about it. And of he never killed my son Adam, what was he a-sobbin' and a-sobbin' about, I ax you that? And my son Adam, he had a rifle, by gones, but he never shot none at all. He was with us up to a few minutes before, and he hadn't shot none all mornin'."

Shuriff Flowers, I wisht ye'd gi' me a good, big chaw o' tobacco, by gones, 'cause my son Adam his death it has made me feel bad."

Major Bradley stopped caressing his well-kept gray imperial, walked over to the dead man's rifle, picked it up and put its muzzle to his nose. He scented fresh powder-smoke. Then he faced old Ball with a strange, hard glitter in his blue eyes.

"You are a liar, sir," he said with a peculiar politeness.

A stir ran quickly over the Balls and Torreys. Sheriff Flowers called out:

"Quiet, there!" and there was quiet. He continued: "Where is Mr. Dale's revolver?"

The Balls had it. They produced it. It had three empty chambers when it should have had but one!

"Pass it to me butt first," ordered the law's representative. He knew that many a man had been shot while taking a revolver barrel first, and he was taking no chances.

to the officer and replied with grave courtesy:

"Believe me, sir," with the very faintest trace of a smile, "I am very much obliged to you."

Luke Moreland led up the sleek young boy that Bill Dale had named Fox, and Dale swung himself easily into the saddle. He faced the sheriff.

"If you're ready to go, sir," he said, "I am."

Together they rode through the woodland toward the broad, green valley, with the Littlefords, the Morelands, Major Bradley and Hayes following closely behind them.

Up on the side of David Moreland's mountain there had been a silent and unseen witness to the arrest of Bill Dale. She was hidden behind a gnarled and twisted clump of sheep-laurol, sitting on a patch of tiny, dainty, pure blue dayflowers—crushing in her hands the tiny purple blossoms that are known as Job's tears.

"Lord, what'll I do now?" she murmured.

at was a great and unanswered question, and it was a prayer, too.

"Lord, what'll I do now?" she repeated.

When Bill Dale had ridden out of her sight, she threw down the crushed flowers and flung herself prostrate, with her face close to the hemlock needles and the earth, and wept low and bitterly, and wept and wept—

"Lord, what'll I do now?"

(Continued next week)

CITY COMMISSION

Alma, Michigan May 23, 1922

Regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Alma in session at the Council Chamber on above date.

Meeting called to order at 8:00 o'clock p. m. by Mayor Chas. R. Murphy.

Present—Commissioners Creaser, Archer, Glass and Chick.

There being a quorum present the commission was declared in session. The minutes of the preceding regular meeting were read and approved.

Reading of bills and claims:

F. C. Hayward \$125.00
Alma Electric & Battery Co. 50
Alma Marble & Granite Works 305.00
Alma Roller Mills 5.10
James B. Clow & Sons 19.70
H. Channon Company 11.75
Detroit Lead & Pipe Works 162.26
Alert Pipe & Supply Co. 32.88
Home Lumber & Fuel Co. 15.25
Little Rock Coal Co. 67.93
J. M. Montigel & Son 1.20
Morley Brothers 2.08
Standard Oil Co. 82.70
Smyens Brothers & Co. 7.47
Truck Parts & Foundry Co. 11.70
L. G. Thornton .70
F. Whitecraft 51.75
Ellisons Auto Supply Shop .60
Geo. F. Cross 28.00
Alma Electric & Battery Co. 44.02
H. Voller 30.00
W. Lowe 24.00
W. Kirkby 21.60
C. Sutton 11.70
B. Williams 24.00
C. Williams 15.60
F. Martell 7.20
R. Mack 15.00
O. Dyer 12.25
R. Schieb 24.00
C. Bollenbacher 6.00
R. Bollenbacher 1.50
J. Graves 3.60
J. Black 10.50
J. Shong 17.40
G. Shong 17.10
C. Van Norman 18.00
W. Wheeler 6.20
M. Mapes 4.35
R. Utley 5.10
P. Jerome 5.10
V. Barnhill 3.00
J. Howe 21.00
A. Myers 5.00
D. Howe 24.00
F. King 17.00
J. Wilson 18.00
J. Campbell 18.00
E. Jones 18.00
B. Overmyer 21.00
F. N. Grover 41.60
J. Lutz 18.00
Holmes Crane & Bartling 2,582.87
J. French 4.50
Holmes Crane & Bartling 107.50

Moved by Commissioner Chick and supported by Commissioner Creaser the above bills as read be allowed and the clerk instructed to issue checks in payment thereof covering vouchers Nos. 1028 to 1053.

Ayes—Commissioners Glass, Creaser, Archer and Chick.

Nays—None.

Moved by Commissioner Glass and supported by Commissioner Chick that the bid of Holmes Crane & Bartling for paving be accepted, and the Mayor and Clerk be and they are hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Holmes, Crane and Bartling subject to the sale of the bonds.

Ayes—Commissioners Glass, Archer, Chick and Mayor Murphy.

Nays—Creaser.

Moved by Commissioner Archer and supported by Commissioner Chick that the Detroit Trust Company, Detroit, Michigan be awarded the bonds according to their bids.

Ayes—Commissioners Glass, Creaser, Archer and Chick.

Nays—None.

Commissioner Glass offers the following resolution and moves its adoption.

RESOLUTION

Whereas the bid and proposal of the Detroit Trust Co., to purchase such amount of the paving bonds as are necessary for the construction of that improvement. Therefore be it resolved,

That the principal and interest be made payable at the Detroit Trust Co., Detroit, Michigan without additional charge to the City of Alma.

The above resolution was supported by Commissioner Archer and was passed as follows:

Ayes—Commissioners Chick, Archer, Glass and Creaser.

Nays—None.

Moved by Commissioner Glass and supported by Commissioner Archer that the Board of Special Assessors meet and prepare a special assessment roll on Pine street from Superior St. to the north line of Walnut St.

Ayes—Commissioners Glass, Chick, Creaser and Archer.

Nays—None.

Moved by Commissioner Archer and supported by Commissioner Chick that the meeting adjourn. The motion prevails.

Chas. R. Murphy, Mayor.

C. F. Blank, Clerk.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many friends who so kindly assisted us during the illness and death of our beloved daughter and sister Margaret. We also wish to express our appreciation of the many and beautiful floral offerings.

Mrs. Maude Gorman and family.

LEGAL NOTICES

RECEIVERS SALE

Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of an order of the Circuit Court for the County of Wayne, in Chancery, I will sell at public auction for cash to the highest bidder all the stock of groceries and dry goods and the fixtures owned and used in connection therewith, heretofore owned by Ross Miller, and subject to any liens or incumbrances that may rest thereon. This sale will take place at the Village of Middleton, in Gratiot County, Michigan, on June 2nd, 1922, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, Central Standard Time, at the building in which such property is located.

This is an exceptionally clean, up-to-date stock, in a good location, a splendid opportunity for a successful business.

D. L. JOHNSON, Receiver.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Circuit Court for the County of Gratiot.

In Chancery.

The City of Alma, a municipal corporation, plaintiff, vs. A. R. Purcell, Defendant.

TAKE NOTICE, That in pursuance and by virtue of a decree of the circuit court for the county of Gratiot, in chancery, and entered in the above entitled cause on the 24th day of April, A. D. 1922, I shall sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the north front door of the court house, in the village of Ithaca, in the county of Gratiot, and state of Michigan, said court house being the place for holding the circuit court for said county, on the 10th day of July, A. D. 1922, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, all of the personal property heretofore described or set apart thereof as may be necessary to raise the amount decreed due to the said plaintiff on account of damages sustained by reason of breach of contract on the part of the said defendant, dated April 20, 1917, for supplying the City of Alma, plaintiff herein, with water, namely \$26,046.00 and costs of suit as taxed which property is described in said decree as follows:

Well drilling machine, shop number 2235 and all equipment therewith, said equipment consisting of two portable gas engines; two brass well screens and other articles; 1 stem; 3 bits; 5 sand balers; 2 pair chain wrenches; 1 set stem wrenches; 1 set hvy. (Hydraulic) Jack; 1 pulling head—5 pulling blocks; 1 centrifugal pump; 1 day jack; 2 driving heads; 1 large snatch block; 1—2000 pound chain fall; 1 sledges; 2 balers; 1 pulling head; 1 set of 4 hvy. chain wrenches; 1 set of 2 hvy. wrenches; 12 pulling shoes; 2 screwdrivers; 2 pipe clamps; and any additions, repairs and improvements on said machinery, since the filing of the bill of complaint, and all of which personal property is now in the possession of the said plaintiff and situated in the city of Alma, in said county of Gratiot, and state of Michigan.

Dated Ithaca, Michigan, May 19, 1922.

William A. Babick, Attorney for Plaintiff.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—In the Circuit Court for the County of Gratiot—in Chancery.

Odell Post, Plaintiff,

Katherine Ott, Iva E. Bond, Augusta Baynor, Hattie Root, Emma F. Campbell, Maggie Williams, Nellie Anderson, Edna Smith, Charles W. Giddings, Edward Cusick, Nora Putnam, Anna Johnston, Florence Bland, Fred T. Henry, Myra Smith and the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees and assigns of said defendants, Katherine Ott and the unknown heirs of Nelson B. Jones, James B. Porter and Daniel L. Case, Defendants.

Suit pending in the Circuit Court for the County of Gratiot, in Chancery, on this 24th day of April, A. D. 1922, it appearing to me, the undersigned, Circuit Judge of the 29th Judicial Circuit and of the County of Gratiot therein, from the allegations contained in the sworn Bill of Complaint filed in the above entitled cause and from the affidavit filed in said cause, that said plaintiff does not know and has been unable after diligent search and inquiry to ascertain the names of the persons who are included as defendants therein with out being named and that it can not be ascertained in what state or country the said defendants, Katherine Ott and the unknown heirs of Nelson B. Jones, James B. Porter and Daniel L. Case reside; and that defendant, Edward Cusick, resides at Kenosha, in the state of Washington; that defendant, Anna Johnston, resides at Chiquita in the state of Oregon; that defendant, Florence Bland, resides at Whiting in the state of Indiana; that defendant, Myra Smith resides in the state of California; and that defendant, Fred T. Henry, resides at Ashland, in the state of North Carolina.

Therefore, on motion of Searl & Searl, attorneys for plaintiff, it is ordered that the above named defendants and their each and all of their unknown heirs, devisees, legatees and assigns, cause their and each of their appearance to be entered in this cause within three months from the date of this order; and in case of their appearance, they cause their answer to the said Bill of Complaint to be filed and a copy thereof to be served on the attorneys for the plaintiff within twenty days after service on them of a copy of said Bill of Complaint and a notice of this order, and that in default thereof, said Bill of Complaint be taken as confessed by each and all of said defendants; and also that within forty days from the date of this order plaintiff cause a copy of this order to be published in the Alma Record, a newspaper printed, published and circulating in said county of Gratiot, and that such publication be continued once each week for six weeks in succession; or that plaintiff cause a copy of this order to be personally served on said defendants and each of them at least twenty days before the time prescribed for their appearance.

EDWARD J. MOINET, Circuit Judge.

SEARL & SEARL, Attorneys for Plaintiff, Business address: St. Johns, Michigan.

NOTICE

The foregoing suit involves the title of lands described as the southwest quarter (1/4) of section one (1) in the township of Hamilton, Gratiot County, Michigan, and is brought to quiet the plaintiff's title thereto.

SEARL & SEARL, Attorneys for Plaintiff, Business address: St. Johns, Michigan.

MORTGAGE SALE

Whereas default has been made in the condition of that mortgage dated March 11, 1914, given by Frank Mockridge and Lottie Mockridge, husband and wife, to Henry Shiner, of Breckenridge, Mich., which said mortgage was recorded in the office of Register of Deeds for the County of Gratiot, Michigan, in Liber 224 of Mortgages on Page 64.

Whereas the said mortgages have made default in the payment of \$200 of the principal sum of said mortgage (at the rate of \$100 each, year, leaving March 11, 1914) for together with interest on the principal sum for one year amounting to \$274 which was due on the payable March 11, 1922.

Whereas it is provided by the terms of said mortgage that in case such default should continue for thirty days, the whole principal sum of said mortgage together with all arrearages of interest thereon shall at the option of the mortgagee and without notice become due and payable immediately thereafter although the period limited for the payment thereof may not have expired, and more than thirty days having elapsed since such default, and the said mortgagee having exercised hereby such option and declared the whole amount of principal and interest unpaid upon such mortgage now due and payable.

And whereas the amount of principal and interest so unpaid and now declared to be due and payable upon such mortgage is the sum of Four thousand eight hundred Dollars (\$4800.00) and the further sum of Five and 25/100 Dollars paid for insurance on the mortgaged property and added to the principal sum thereof as provided in said mortgage, together with costs of this foreclosure including an attorney fee of \$35.00, as provided by law, and no suit or proceedings at law having been instituted for the recovery of said debt or any part thereof whereby the power of sale contained in said mortgage has become operative.

THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that by virtue of the said power of sale and statute in such case made and provided, the said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises heretofore described at public auction to the highest bidder, at the north front door of the Court House in the Village of Ithaca, in the County of Gratiot, Michigan, on Saturday, July 22, 1922, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon of said day, which said premises are described in said mortgage as follows: The south half of the southeast quarter of Section Four (4) in Town Twelve (12) North of Range One (1) West, except one-half acre of land in the southeast corner of the above description, owned by the Free Methodist Church, all in the township of Wheeler, County of Gratiot and State of Michigan.

Dated at Alma, Mich., April 21, 1922.

HENRY SHINER, Mortgagee.

D. L. Johnson, Attorney for Mortgagee, Address: Alma, Mich. 49-12w

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